

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Madam President, I know of no further debate on the motion to proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the question is on agreeing to the motion to proceed.

The motion was agreed to.

DRINKING WATER AND WASTEWATER
INFRASTRUCTURE ACT OF 2021

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 914) to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize programs under those Acts, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1460

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.)

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Madam President, I call up amendment No. 1460, and I ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Illinois [Ms. DUCKWORTH] for Mr. CARPER proposes an amendment numbered 1460.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COVID-19 HATE CRIMES ACT

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I rise today to discuss the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act. I was a cosponsor of this bill, which was introduced by Senator HIRONO and passed the Senate on April 22, 2021, by a vote of 94 to 1. I was in Minnesota to attend the memorial service for Daunte Wright when the bill came up for a vote, but I would have voted in favor of the bill had I been present.

I have been alarmed by the sharp increase in hate crimes against members of the Asian-American Pacific Islander, AAPI, community during the pandemic. According to Stop AAPI Hate, there have been approximately 3,800 incidents of anti-Asian bias across the country in the last year, and that number only includes what has been reported. As we saw with the recent mass shooting in Georgia, in which six of the eight victims were women of Asian descent, these crimes are horrifying and heartbreaking.

I have also talked to constituents in my State who have experienced verbal attacks, physical abuse, and threats to their businesses simply because they are members of the AAPI community. What they have endured is not right. These are hate crimes, and it is time

for us to stand together, to denounce hate, and take action.

When I first arrived at the Senate, I worked hard to pass the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act. As a prosecutor, I was at the White House when President Bill Clinton introduced the bill, and 9 years later, I got to cast one of the deciding votes to make the bill a reality. Since then I have worked with Senator MURKOWSKI to introduce the bipartisan Justice for Victims of Hate Crimes Act, which will help to ensure that Federal prosecutors can effectively enforce the Federal hate crimes law. After places of worship were targets of violence in my State, I joined my colleagues in cosponsoring legislation to strengthen protections for religious institutions that was signed into law in September 2018.

The COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act will ensure that the Department of Justice invests the resources needed to fully investigate pandemic-related hate crimes against Asian Americans and will support local law enforcement to report and respond to hate crimes. While there is more we must do to root out hate and bias in our country, this bill is an important step forward, and I am grateful to Senator HIRONO for her work in leading this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO LORI HOUSMAN

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I rise today to recognize the distinguished career and retirement of Lori Housman after 20 years of service at the Congressional Budget Office. Throughout her time at CBO, Lori has been a cornerstone of the Medicare unit. Her expertise in Medicare's payment policy for physicians, as well as her patience and good humor, has been essential to the Congress as it has developed legislation in this complicated area.

During her time in public service, Lori has worked on legislation that dramatically changed how Medicare operates, including the Affordable Care Act and the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015, commonly referred to as MACRA. Lori's tireless dedication to providing the Congress with objective analysis embodies the best of CBO's commitment to serving both sides of the aisle with expertise, professionalism, and fairness. Her exemplary work in analyzing legislation is matched by her warmth toward and genuine interest in others, earning her the admiration of congressional staff. Her efforts over the years have surely helped to make the Medicare Program better for tens of millions of Americans.

To her colleagues, Lori is a constant source of knowledge, support, and kindness. She has trained many groups of CBO analysts and managers throughout her tenure, teaching them to think critically about how legislation can be translated into analytical models and how to explain how legislation can be clarified to better reflect

the intent of the Congress. In addition to her contributions to CBO's analytical work, her colleagues at CBO congressional staff are grateful for her patience and generous spirit, especially in extraordinary circumstances.

As chairman of the Finance Committee, I, along with Ranking Member CRAPO, thank Lori for her service, and we wish her a relaxing, well-deserved retirement with her husband Van on their boat, Pigs Flew.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CENTENNIAL OF CONNECTICUT
LIONS CLUBS

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, today I rise to recognize Lions Clubs International as it celebrates 100 years of outstanding service in Connecticut.

In the winter of 1921, Lions Clubs International, now the world's largest service organization, dispatched an organizer to Connecticut to form the first Lions Club in New England, the Bridgeport Host Lions Club. Throughout their century of service, these volunteers have worked diligently to help set up a fresh-air camp for Bridgeport's youth, create a vision clinic at Bridgeport Hospital, purchase x-ray devices at St. Vincent's Medical Center, provide dental services for the indigent at Park City Hospital, and a litany of other community projects. Lions Clubs in New Haven, Greater Hartford, New Britain, New London, Greenwich, Waterbury, Meriden, Torrington, and Bristol would soon follow. Today, approximately 160 clubs with over 4,600 Lions are serving their communities, many collaborating with local governments to act as dependable volunteer arms.

In 1925, a future Connecticut resident, Helen Keller, would have a profound impact on the mission and very future of Lions Clubs International with her simple plea: "Will you not help me hasten the day when there shall be no preventable blindness; no little deaf, blind child untaught; no blind man or woman unaided? I appeal to you Lions, you who have your sight, your hearing, you who are strong and brave and kind. Will you not constitute yourselves Knights of the Blind in this crusade against darkness?" Connecticut Lions not only embraced her message, but also did much more, donating monies and time to support their communities locally and globally. Lions Clubs across the State have sponsored parades, festivals, and school projects, as well as raised funds for building equipment to improve the quality of life for children, the disabled, seniors, and veterans. Connecticut Lions have taken families in need shopping to make their holidays brighter. In support of the health and well-being of their communities, Lions Clubs have donated ambulances, school buses and other vehicles, and vital